

GEOLOGIC HISTORY OF PENNSYLVANIA

Complete this packet using the DCNR booklet "Geologic Story of Pennsylvania"
(Use the back cover for #1-4)

1. The history of the Earth is divided into categories such as Eras and Periods. What is the earliest Era and how long ago was it?

2. When did bacteria first appear on Earth? (Eon and years ago)

3. An orogeny is a period of mountain building. Name and describe the three.

1.

2.

3.

4. What period are we currently in and when did it start?

5. What is an accretion?

6. What Pa rock formation was created as a result of the last Laurentian accretion?

Cambrian and Ordovician Periods (570-443mya)

7. How long ago were the Cambrian and Ordovician Periods?

8. Where was North America during this Period?

9. What was created in the Early Ordovician Period?

10. What basin was formed in the Mid Ordovician Period?

Silurian Period (417-443 mya)

11. What useful resources, that are still mined today, were created during this time?

12. How long was a year and a day during this time?

13. What are two important aspects of Silurian life?

Devonian Period (417-354 mya)

14. What was the Acadian orogeny?

15. During the late Devonian Period, what evolutionary change took place in fish?

The Carboniferous Periods (354-290 mya)

16. Describe two significant events that occurred during this time.

17. What is peat?

18. What is the chief element in coal?

The Permian Period (290-248 mya)

19. What caused the deformation of the Appalachian basin?

20. Where was Pennsylvania located within Pangea?

21. What important reptilian evolution allowed them to lay eggs on dry land?

Mezozoic Era (248-65 mya)

22. What 3 Periods are in this Era?

23. What is currently happening to the Atlantic Ocean?

24. What ruled the land during this Era?

25. What is thought to have caused the mass extinction of mass extinction of life?

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26. What covered large parts of Canada and North America 1.8 mya?

27. When did the last glacier arrive in Pa.?
